

Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report

Arches National Park

2005

Superintendent's Office

Arches National Park had a very active and productive year in 2005. Construction of a new 18,000 square foot Visitor Center by Hogan, Inc. was completed, and the formal dedication occurred on September 17, 2005. NPS Director Fran Mainella, Acting Intermountain Regional Director Mike Snyder, Moab Mayor Dave Sakrison, Grand County Council Chairman Jerry McNeely, National Park Foundation Vice-Chair Nancy Bechtle, Managing Director of the Utah Governor's Office of Tourism Leigh vanderEsch, and Senator Bennett's Central Utah Area Director Donna Sackett joined Superintendent Laura Joss to cut the ribbon to officially open the visitor center. Over 300 people attended the afternoon event.



Arches National Park's newly-constructed Visitor Center August 2005

The Moab singing group, The Valley Voices, started the event by singing the "Star-Spangled Banner," and followed the ribbon-cutting with additional performances. The Moab Taiko Dan Drummers performed several pieces. Refreshments were supplied by Canyonlands Natural History Association and baker extraordinaire Karla Hancock. The premiere of the Discovery Communications film, "Secrets of Red Rock" followed the ceremony in the 140-seat theater. The film was made possible by a generous grant from the National Park Foundation through the support of Discovery Channel, a Proud Partner of America's National Parks. Highlighting Arches and Canyonlands National Park, the film enhances visitors' understanding and appreciation of the two parks.

New exhibits in the visitor center interpret the natural and cultural history of the park. In the outdoor plaza, bronze sculptures created by Matthew Gray Palmer include a bighorn ram, ewe and lamb, two ravens and two lizards. Indoors are several tall *faux* rock fins, a pothole with critters, hands-on rock

samples of the different formations found in the park, a depositional environment model with rock samples, and several interactive computer programs. “Desert Life” was created by Bill and Sandy Hood of Grand Junction, CO, and identifies many of the species of plants and animals found in Arches. “Hunting Arches” was provided by Doug Travers, a dedicated and intrepid arch-hunter from San Antonio, TX; visitors can search for arches by name, location, size, discoverer’s name, and more. Trip Planners help visitors plan their time, and a Tool Shed features ten NPS employees and the tools they use in their jobs, and includes a short interview with each person.

The architectural firm of VCBO of Salt Lake City, UT designed the building in conjunction with exhibit designers of EDX of Seattle, WA. Southern Custom Exhibits, Inc. of Anniston, AL fabricated and installed the exhibits, with oversight by Harpers Ferry Center. The old visitor center building was incorporated into the new one, saving bricks, waste disposal, and new materials. Desert landscaping surrounds the building, which blends nicely with the surrounding terrain. COTR for the project was Canyonlands National Park Facility Manager Wayne Neilsen, and construction management was overseen by PBS&J.



New Visitor Center Entrance



Visitor Center Ribbon-Cutting

Participants shown in the ribbon-cutting are, from left: Grand County Council Chairman Jerry McNeely, Moab City Mayor Dave Sakrison, Superintendent Laura Joss, National Park Service Director Fran Mainella and National Park Foundation Vice-Chairman Nancy Bechtle.

Major Issues

The US Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to clean up surface contamination and develop and implement a groundwater compliance strategy to address contamination that resulted from historical uranium-ore processing at the Atlas Mill and tailings site. The tailings site is located in Grand County on the southeast side of the junction of highways 191 and 279, less than one mile from the Arches National Park entrance and Visitor Center. After involvement for over ten years by the NPS, the state of Utah, Grand County, elected officials, and other stakeholders, the DOE analyzed the potential environmental impacts of both on-site and off-site remediation and disposal alternatives involving both surface and groundwater contamination in an EIS, and signed a record of decision in September 2005. The contaminated materials will be transported to a disposal site at Crescent Junction via an existing railroad line. SEUG will continue to work with DOE and other stakeholders to ensure safe and successful relocation of the tailings.

Proposals for mineral leasing on surrounding lands continued to be a major issue for the park in 2005, and the park superintendent continued communications with local Bureau of Land Management staff to discuss these. Proposed residential and commercial developments on lands adjacent to, or near, the park pose a threat to the park's viewshed and natural resources.

Planning

Arches continued to work with Otak, Inc. and the National Park Service's Denver Service Center on the park's Alternative Transportation Plan/Environmental Assessment in 2005. A Biological Assessment was drafted in late winter 2005, and an Intelligent Transportation System study was produced in early 2005. The EA draft is expected to be released for public comment in spring 2006, and a public meeting will be held in Moab, UT in June 2006.

Administration

Appropriations

The Arches National Park total ONPS Green Book funding for fiscal year 2005 was \$1,168,000 prior to IMR assessments. ONPS authorization after assessments was \$1,134,200.

Fiscal/Budget

<u>ONPS</u>	Administration	\$ 165,300
	Interpretation	\$ 345,800
	RMVP	\$ 342,600
	Maintenance	\$ 272,000
	Total	\$1,125,700

No Year None

Housing Carryover \$ 56,612.80

Housing Revenue 2004 \$ 12,780.67

Donations \$ 88,445.81

\$ Carryover into 2005-----\$88,445.81

Cost Recovery Revenue \$ 10,481.10

<u>Soft Funding:</u>	Concessions Operations Enhancement	\$2,000
	Rehab 4.5 Miles of Trail	\$96,260
	Arches Re-Stripe Roads	\$14,940
	Rehab 2-Miles of Trail	\$62,960
	Rehab HQ Water System	\$ 9,875
	Chip Seal 9-Miles Arches Entrance Station Road	\$255,150
	Rehab Upgrade DG Photovoltaic System	\$173,000
	Crack Seal 12-Miles of Entrance Station Road	\$ 25,800
	Rehab Housing Unit 10Y	\$ 24,987
	Replace Law Enforcement Vehicle SUV Liberty Hybrid	\$26,000
	VIP Program	\$3,300

Public Use/Visitation

Visitation in 2005 was 781,672. This is a 6.62% increase from the 733,131 visitors in 2004. The total number of vehicles entering the park was 284,803. 6,488 hikers were issued permits for the Fiery Furnace. Campers in Devil's Garden Campground were 46,418. Canyon Country Outdoor Education conducted 28 field trips into Arches National Park, bringing over 750 participants. In 2005 1,830 information requests were mailed out by the Administration Division.

Fee Revenues

Fee Revenues under the Fee Demonstration Program totaled (\$1,708,716) for 2005. Other income collected was (\$12,148) for special use permits and (\$ 6,301) for donations with a total income of (\$1,727,165)

Sources:	Campground Fees	(\$150,012)
	Fiery Furnace	(\$103,788)
	Entrance Fees	(\$1,454,916)

The Fee Collection Operation Cost of Collection Budget for FY2005 was \$373, 919.

Volunteers

Nineteen volunteers spent 6005 hours of service providing assistance to campers at Devils Garden campground, along with compliance checks and various other hosting duties. Two sets of hosts are on at the same time putting in one to 3 month stints from the 1st of March through the 31st of October. One set of our hosts, Bob and Cathy O'Donnell, were interviewed and included in the "Tools" interactive exhibit in the new visitor center.

Murray Shoemaker coordinated annual Sierra Club work group in April; they completed 560 hours of time working on a variety of projects, including hauling and piling tamarisk to block unwanted social trails in the Windows, working on the Landscape Arch trail, and hauling fence posts to the park boundary for future fencing work. Shoemaker and Steve Budelier also coordinated and/or led several other volunteer projects throughout the year. Several volunteers signed up as VIPs to assist with the rock art documentation in the park. The Administration Division recruited two volunteers who assisted with the Dedication of the Arches Visitor Center.

The Student Conservation Association continued to provide excellent Resource Assistants for our volunteer program; four volunteers, each working twenty-week sessions, provided useful, skilled and experienced additions to our staff. Two other full-time interpretive volunteers worked various lengths of time, with four matching the SCAs time. Fourteen volunteers provided nearly 5,000 hours of service in a variety of interpretive duties. The park's total volunteer commitment, including interpretive, resource management, general, and campground host duties, totaled nearly 15,350 hours donated by more than 120 volunteers.

Maintenance, Facility Management and Development

Personnel:

Facility Manager Shawn Bryant departed in March 2005 for a new position at Jewel Cave National Monument. During the lapse of this position, three individuals acted for 3-4 months each as Facility Manager: Tome Johnson, John S. Lewis and Eric McDougall. Recruitment and hiring was completed for four Seasonal WG-05, and two WG-03 Maintenance Worker project-funded positions, one Maintenance Worker Leader (Trails) position, four Maintenance Worker (Trails) positions, and two Laborer positions.

Training, Testing and Certifications

- T. Johnson, M. Johnson, Kratz, completed IT Security Training
- Tome completed FMSS Regional Update training and attended COR Training, Federal Information Security Awareness Training and the Facility Managers Zone Meetings
- T Johnson, Dalton, M.Johnson, J Kratz, And M Mattivi completed HAZWOPER 8 Hour refresher training.

Planning:

Maintenance personnel participated in the planning and review process for the new visitor center, Fee Demo, Repair/Rehab and Alternative Transportation plan.

Safety:

The Facility Management Division conducted regular weekly safety meetings and continued to develop and implement Job Hazard Analyses for work activities. Employee injuries were limited to minor cuts and abrasions.

FMSS:

Arches continued the implementation of the Facility Management Software System in 2005. Tome Johnson completed FMSS update training. The division and a contracted team performed Annual Condition Assessments on 36 assets and Comprehensive Condition Assessments on 36 assets. Asset Specification Templates and Equipment/Feature records were completed for 41 assets. All 2005 FMSS requirements and deadlines were accomplished and the park was chosen as an NPS FMSS/RIP pilot park. For this the division completed FMSS/RIP match ups, developed facility maintenance and facility operations work orders and all maintenance activities are being tracked using the FMSS system.

Operations: Performed routine operations activities including:

- Routine custodial duties at Visitor Center, Library, Rock House, 16 Vault toilets, and Campground comfort stations
- Routine water sampling
- Solid waste disposal
- Roadside litter pickup
- Routine campsite maintenance
- Mowing, trimming and irrigating grounds.
- Charging vault toilets
- Pest control and rodent-proofing
- Tree trimming
- Routine housing inspections

Maintenance/Projects

In 2005 the Facility Management Division received and managed approximately \$434,000 in project and soft-money funding from various sources including Cyclic, Fee Demonstration, Equipment Replacement.

- Arches maintenance crew installed a new lawn irrigation system at the Rock House.
- Five seasonal trail maintenance crew completed deferred maintenance on approximately 6.5 miles of park trails. This project accomplished cyclic maintenance including: cleaning, repairing, and replacing waterbars; replacement of eroded trail tread; cleaning culverts and drainage structures; clearing and brushing; rebuilding rock retaining walls; and obliteration of social trails. Work was performed on portions of the Windows Loop, Skyline Arch, Landscape Arch, Delicate Arch Viewpoint, Delicate Arch, and Devil's Garden trails, Tower Arch, Sand Dune Arch, Tunnel Arch, Fiery Furnace Loop, Broken Arch, Park Avenue, Tunnel Arch, Amphitheater Trail, Courthouse Wash Trail, and Double Arch trail.
- Installed fire suppression system, repaired and repainted interior walls, replaced electric range, sink fixtures, and floor coverings in Quarters #6.
- Repaired, painted, interior walls, refinished hardwood flooring, installed new carpet, replaced sink fixtures, window blinds, interior doors in building #11.
- Remodeled Campground Ranger Cabin, replaced floor coverings and all appliances; repaired and repainted interior walls; installed two new window openings; replaced sink and electrical fixtures. Work was completed with Arches maintenance and the Canyonlands special project crews.
- Constructed a new SAR storage building at Host Cabin. Approximately 100 square feet, work was completed with Arches maintenance and John Lewis.
- Completed crack sealing of some park roads.

- Maintenance employees assisted with the moving of offices and Visitor Center operations from the temporary Visitor Center to the new Visitor Center. Arches maintenance crew attended training sessions for the new Visitor Center HVAC, lighting, fire suppression system, irrigation system, and installation of Visitor Center shade awnings.
- Water system solution pumps were repaired and rebuilt.
- Completed over 500 written work requests from various divisions and residents.
- Repaired, cleaned, and serviced furnaces, evaporative coolers, and A/C units.
- Painted park signs, pavement symbols, and vault toilet interiors.
- Replaced miscellaneous water valves throughout park.
- Installed vacuum breakers throughout the park.
- Sealed fences, roof shakes, and signs.
- Repaired lawn sprinkler system.
- Removed weeds from drainfields, trails and around buildings.
- Built new roadway and backcountry trail signs, and painted all routed signs.
- Replaced several kitchen and bathroom faucets.
- Replaced several window curtains in park buildings with blinds.
- Replaced cork in exhibit information signs.
- Repaired or replaced a number of door locks on park buildings.
- Repaired several sewer lines.
- Cleaned carpet in Visitor Center, Rock House, and seasonal housing.
- Serviced and repaired Devil's Garden Generators.
- Repaired several flood-damaged areas in park.
- Removed rockfalls from park road.
- Serviced and repaired water-system chlorinators and pumps.
- Replaced bearings and shock absorbers on Devil's Garden solar panels.
- Reset several sign posts on park roads and trails.
- Repaired park fences.
- Repaired building windows and latches.
- Replaced all furnace filters.
- Tested all GFI breakers.
- Repaired leaks in Maintenance Building roof.
- Serviced Interior vehicles.

RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP

Unless otherwise noted, resources stewardship activities at Arches were conducted by Canyonlands National Park Staff

Monitoring Projects

Vegetation Monitoring

- All 51 long-term vegetation-monitoring plots throughout the SEUG, including plots in Arches, were visited and data collected.
- All matching photos have been organized into sets for easy analysis.
- All vegetation data from 1987-2005 has been organized, standardized, summarized, and placed in one MS ACCESS file for analysis.

Riparian Bird Monitoring

- Avian point count surveys were performed at eight SEUG survey sites, including Courthouse Wash and Lost Spring Canyon in Arches, for the 12th year in a row.

- The 2005 report “Avian Population Monitoring in Riparian Habitats within National Parks of the Southeast Utah Group” is complete. Copies will be sent to the various parks and to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Southwest Willow Flycatcher Surveys

- Surveys for the Endangered Southwest Willow Flycatcher (SWFL) were performed at 5 sites in CANY and ARCH. The SWFL was detected in Courthouse Wash in Arches, but no breeding territories were found. They were probably moving through to other areas outside the park.
- Four SEUG employees attended SWFL survey protocol training organized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Bighorn Sheep Monitoring

The desert bighorn sheep of the SEUG were monitored throughout fiscal 2005. The study and monitoring focused upon 12 radio-collared sheep on the Island District and four radio-collared sheep in the Arches/Professor Valley herd. Of special importance again this year was the study of the lambing success of the ewes and subsequent recruitment into the herd, critical lambing and rutting areas and dates, home ranges and movements, relative health and population demographics.

The Arches/Professor Valley herd has shown very poor recruitment the past seven years, but the population still has about 70 animals. Predation by lions appears to be a major factor in the decline of this population. The last radio-collared ewe along the Colorado River corridor died in late winter, and only one radio-collared ewe remains in this population. The need exists to capture and collar more animals soon in this population, as the remaining active collars are well-beyond battery life expectancy.

The 2005 lambing season has been more productive than that of 2004, with an overall summer lamb:ewe ratio of 64:100 as of the end of July. Since then, few lamb mortalities have been noted in the late summer ground survey.

In addition to the ongoing monitoring of the SEUG sheep populations, six weeks were spent monitoring the bighorn on surrounding BLM lands per a five-year Inter-agency agreement. Seven radio-collared animals are within the population of approximately 150 animals, and the summer lamb:ewe ratio was slightly over 60:100. The data collected this past year, in addition to much data from past years given to BLM, has been an important issue relating to the current revision of the BLM Moab District Resource Management Plan and road and ORV closures.

Peregrine Falcon Monitoring

In 2005, with drought conditions nearly gone after the heavy snowpack of the winter, both monitored sites in Arches were occupied and successfully fledged a total of six young. Overall in SEUG, 13 of the 14 SEUG sites monitored were occupied, and 12 of these sites had successful nests and fledged a record 23 young for an average of 1.92 fledglings per successful nest. In addition to the record number of young, 2005 was also interesting in that both the earliest (prior to June 15) and latest (approximately July 26) fledging dates ever observed in the SEUG were noted. Although the number of young fledged and the number of successful nests was the highest ever documented in the SEUG, the 1.92 fledglings per successful nest was still slightly below the eleven-year average of 1.94. Interestingly, only one site fledged more than two young; for the first time in eight years, four fledglings were observed fledged from one site.

Water Monitoring

- Until July 2005, 6 water quality sites at in ARCH were sampled monthly. (At that point, sampling was shifted to sites in CANY). All samples were sent to the Utah Department of Health in Salt Lake City for a complete chemical analysis.
- Bacteria samples were taken and analyzed at most of the sites.
- Macro-invertebrates were collected at all water sites 4 times a year.
- Attended workshops and training on water quality monitoring in Moab.

- The first comprehensive reports on water quality and quantity in ARCH and other SEUG units were completed, covering the years from 1994-2004.
- The water quantity project in ARCH was continued for the 5th year in a row with some funding from the NPS Water Rights Division in order to assist ARCH and WRD with field data necessary to write a groundwater protection Plan.

Species Lists

- All species lists for the parks of the SEUG were updated and distributed throughout the parks.

Exotic Plant Control

- Efforts in SEUG involved Exotic Plant Management Teams, Sierra Club Service Group, wilderness volunteers, other volunteers, youth groups and the Utah Conservation Crew. The major exotic plant projects were tamarisk control in Sevenmile and Courthouse Washes in Arches and Horse Canyon in CANY. Other time was spent on smaller projects and re-treatments of past control efforts. Acreages were calculated by GPS. Approximately 110 acres were treated in SEUG involving 2,200 man hours. Exotic species controlled included Tamarisk, Russian Knapweed, Diffuse Knapweed, Field Bindweed, Purple Loosestrife, Ailanthus, and Siberian Elm.

Arches Biscuitroot (*Lomatium latilobum*) Monitoring

- Re-designed the ARCH biscuitroot monitoring program.
- Collected data at all the major population sites for the second year in ARCH.
- Organized all photos and started a database.
- A final 2004 monitoring report was completed in 2005.

Weather

- Weather data was taken from all units of the SEUG and entered into an Excel spreadsheet. This information will be used in future analysis for weather related differences in vegetation cover etc.
- New constant monitoring digital temperature and precipitation gauges were downloaded at most vegetation monitoring sites throughout the SEUG.
- All digital data has been organized and stored in Excel spreadsheets.

Photo Documentation of Threatened Resources

- Photographed sections of parks that may be susceptible to future visitor impacts.
- Organized all photos and started a database.

Historic Photo Project

- Historic photos of the parks of the SEUG were collected at various regional museums and depositories. Many photos were scanned into digital format.
- Many sites were re-photographed in 2005.
- Hired a contract technician to scan photos and help set up a comprehensive database.
- Contracted with an historian to research major archives and provide summaries of land-use history of the four parks.

Northern Colorado Plateau Inventory and Monitoring Program

- Schelz and Troutman attended two Technical Committee meetings in Zion NP and Colorado NM.
- Direct Supervision of the I&M Network Manager was turned over to Bruce Bingham in the Regional Office.
- NCPN accomplishments are detailed in a separate report.

Planning/Environmental Compliance

Fire management plan

An interdisciplinary team representing staff from SEUG divisions and parks and our Mesa Verde Fire Management Officer completed a new Fire Management Plan for the four parks of the group, as required by Congressional direction and NPS wildland fire policy.

Other planning activities included

- Advised consultants and park staff with Arches Transportation Plan Environmental Assessment and Biological Assessment drafts.
- Coordinated environmental compliance and documentation for approximately 15 proposed administrative projects and activities in Arches
- Provided NPS input on various BLM planning efforts, including new Resource Management Plans, Travel Management Plans and Fire Management Plans for Moab and Monticello Field Areas

Research

A total of 20 Research Permits were issued in 2005 for Arches. Details of the research permits are captured each year in an annual report for central files.

Cultural Resource Management

Training

Goetze and Webster participated in interpretive training, providing information on cultural resource issues relevant to the visitor.

Cultural Projects

ARCH

- Monitoring Program: monitored eight sites in Arches. Site data, photographs, GPS locations, condition assessment and architectural documentation were updated and information and photographs were entered into the SEUG database
- LCS Update: Documented, entered information and photos into SEUG database and obtained determination of eligibility for 5 List of Classified Structures (LCS) sites in Arches.
- Rock Art Documentation/VIP Project: Began documentation of the 29 Rock Art Panels with three volunteer workers.

SEUG

- SEUG Cultural Resource Database Design: Significant database development was completed this year in conjunction with the River Corridor Architectural and Rock Art Survey Project. Data standards, field protocols, and forms were also completed and are now the standard for all future cultural resource projects. In addition, a photo database was created that simplifies search and retrieval of specific images.
- Digital Mapping Protocols: developed mapping protocols for the Southeast Utah Group's Baseline Architectural Documentation and Condition Assessment Program.
- General Planning/Compliance: Participated in multiple planning and compliance review efforts including review and comment on the SEUG Fire Management Plan.

SEUG Curatorial Operation In addition to routine tasks and working to meet FY05 GPRA goals, the following work was accomplished in FY05:

Provided research and other assistance for:

- NCPN I&M Program
- SEUG archeologists
- SEUG planner
- SEUG Interpretive Operations (CANY and ARCH)

- Local author researching Bates Wilson
- ARCH Superintendent
- Canyonlands Natural History Association

Records Management/Collections Documentation

- Implemented WASO Corrective Action Plan for SEUG parks' museum records
- Learned, used, and contributed to new cultural resources photograph database
- Trained several SEUG employees in use of slide scanner to facilitate digitization of images
- Developed protocols for coordination of cataloging in cooperative project with Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
- Placed SEUG archival finding aids online via the Team Room for use by park staff

Facilities Management

- Assisted with professional review of all fiber objects in the collection
- Sent surplus exhibit case and nitrate negative to WACC

Assistance to other areas

- Hosted meeting of the NPS Museum Management Program Council

Other

- Supported finalization of new exhibits for the ARCH Visitor Center
- Provided educational sessions for the 4C's and seasonal interpreters

The following resources stewardship activities were conducted and/or overseen by Arches NP Resource Management Visitor Protection ranger Gary Salamacha:

- The Devils Garden breeding bird survey was completed for the 23rd consecutive year monitoring for abundance and territories in Pinion Juniper woodlands.
- The Arches roadside breeding bird survey was completed for the 17th consecutive year monitoring for abundance of species in various habitat park wide.
- Seventy-two raptor nests containing eight species of birds of prey were surveyed for fledgling success. This was the 23rd consecutive year.
- A great blue heron rookery along the Colorado River border of arches was monitored for fledgling success. This was the 8th consecutive year the site has been monitored.
- Long term monitoring of riparian vegetation was continued in the Lost Spring Canyon area as well as a breeding bird survey for abundance of species.
- Informational boundary signs placed at 9 of 11 remote locations; 2 more will be placed in 2006.
- Hired 12th SCA volunteer to assist with field work.
- Lake Mead EPMT Team removed Tamarisk and Russian Olive in Seven-Mile Canyon and Upper Courthouse Wash
- On October 17, 2005 Mesa Verde National Park's Prescribed Burn Program Fuels crew conducted prescribed burns in the areas of North Courthouse Wash (100 piles/23 acres) and Salt Valley (125 piles/10 acres).

Park Ranger Lee Ferguson continued monitoring *Lomatium* study plots in the Fiery Furnace. Park Ranger Lafever compiled a variety of data pertaining to wildflower blooming times and weather data, and continued to work on a web site presentation.

Resource and Visitor Protection

After 14 years of service at Arches National Park, Chief Ranger Jim Webster retired in October 2004. During his tenure, he helped develop the VERP planning process; collaborated on the Arches National

Park Expansion Act of 1998; served as incident commander when the Olympic Torch made its Utah debut at Delicate Arch for the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympics; and built partnerships with local law enforcement and emergency services agencies. New Chief Ranger Glenn Sherrill entered on duty in October 2005.

Law Enforcement

- There were two Part I offense at Arches in 2005, an attempted car clouting and a theft.
- There were four Part II including vandalism, suspicious persons, and crimes against family and children.
- Thirty-seven citations and eight written warnings were issued, mostly for speeding and resource issues.
- Twenty motor vehicle accidents and one vehicle/bicycle accident were investigated.
- Thirty-two traffic incidents and twenty-eight natural resource violations were investigated.
- There were ninety-two other service incidents, mostly vehicle assists, lock outs and jump-start of vehicles.
- LE Rangers participated in 20 search and rescue incidents.
- Ranger Jason Ramsdell was detailed to Organ Pipe National Monument for two weeks to assist with operations there relating to illegal drug smuggling and illegal immigration activities.

Search and Rescue

In 2005 park staff participated in twenty-three search and rescue (SAR) incidents. Five incidents were “major” (unprogrammed cost over \$500). Three of the SAR responses involved fatalities, however two of these were assists to the local county and in one case the victim died later as a result of her injuries. The majority of the SAR incidents in 2005 were carry-outs of injured visitors on trails or in backcountry areas. However, three SAR incidents were classified as “technical,” requiring use of ropes and rigging techniques.

Emergency Medical

Twenty-four emergency medical incidents were reported and documented. A total of twenty-one patients were treated. Three patients refused treatment and left the park while two others transported themselves to the hospital before we were notified. Twenty-three patients required significant basic life support. Eighteen calls were traumatic in nature; five were medical in nature—primarily heat-related illnesses; one was related to a previous history of cardiac problems. Five ambulance and eighteen personal vehicle transports occurred. The park had six EMS providers, including five Emergency Medical Technicians and one First Responder.

Critical Incident Stress Management

Ranger Karen McKinlay-Jones led Peer Support teams in Everglades, Big Cypress, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas for two weeks after hurricane Wilma.

Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP)

RMVP staff did not conduct VERP monitoring surveys at the Windows, Delicate Arch, or Devils Garden this year due to the lack of staff. A total of 56 monitoring surveys were conducted in the motorized rural zone (Salt Valley Road) as part of routine patrols through that area and -0- were conducted in the semi-primitive motorized zone (four-wheel drive road). None of the surveys conducted have been entered into a database due to the lack of staff.

Special Park Uses

It was a busy year for Special Park Uses. There were 24 film permits issued for Arches, Canyonlands, Natural Bridges and Hovenweep. The majority of the projects took place at Arches and the Island in The Sky District of Canyonlands. The projects varied in scope from small, still photography productions with minimal crews, to large-scale advertisements and a movie production, “Moving McAllister.” Filming

was done at Arches by The Weather Channel, “Good Morning America” and the Animal Planet. There were 3 Film Permit Waivers issued for projects that fit the requirements for such an exemption. At Arches National Park there were 22 Special Use Permits issued. Most of the permits were issued for weddings. Permits were also issued for a charity bike ride and the annual Easter Sunrise Service.

Special Events

A permit for the Lance Armstrong Foundation Charity Bike Ride to fight cancer was issued again. Local outfitter Griffith Expeditions, specifically Mark Griffith and Jose Tejada, in conjunction with park personnel, organized the event. The permit authorized 250 participants. The event was not a competition and all went smoothly.

Fee Collection The Fee Collection program is organized under the Division of Interpretation.

Training

- All employees completed the 2005 IT Security Awareness Training and Discrimination and Whistleblowing in the Workplace.
- Natalie Hettman and Lynda Moore attended the Advantage remit program training and completed the TGA net training to deposit collected monies straight to Treasury versus through Key bank.
- Natalie attended the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement of 2004 and 5-Level Performance Management trainings at headquarters and 5 various Telnet courses.
- Janet Wiinamaki attended an 8 hour Haz-whopper course plus she and Leo Dutilly have started training on the Advantage POS Remit program.

Background Investigations

The preliminary requirements were met for background checks on all seasonal and permanent employees.

Entrance Stations

Fees continue to be collected year around at the entrance stations; collection hours were reduced by 30 minutes, from 7:00 to 6:30 p.m., to keep in sync with the visitor center hours and provide better security for employees. The Visitor Use Assistants provided brochures and information on the park and surrounding area to 781,672 visitors during CY2005. Caryl Say was brought on in April to fill a vacancy created the previous fall. Staff moved out of the temporary quarters at the library building to the new visitor center offices the latter part of June.

Fee Program Review

June 7, 2005 the Fee Program received a review by Intermountain Region Fee Program Coordinator Joseph Evans and Josie Sweeney; overall the Fee Operation scored well.

Planning

The Devils Garden photovoltaic system upgrade project will include rehab of the Ranger Cache to house one set of campground hosts. This project will include the labor and materials to install high efficiency appliances and a small parking area for the host vehicle or RV. A shower is to be built on the outside of the residence to accommodate work groups such as the Sierra Club or fill the needs of the second set of campground hosts.

The camping fee of \$10 will be raised to \$15 beginning January 1, 2006 with the Golden Age and Access fee being \$7.50. The group rates will remain at \$3.00 per person per night. This does not include the reservation cost to make the camping/reservation fee a ‘seamless’ cost to the public. The 2005 reservation fee was \$9 for one or seven nights. The new fee will reflect an approximate \$3.00 per night, per site reservation fee.

Interpretation and Education

Training

- ◆ All employees, including volunteers, complete the IT Security Awareness training and the Discrimination and Whistleblowing in the Workplace training.
- ◆ Diane Allen attended the following TelNet training sessions: Media Relations (7 hours), Interpreting Controversies, Recreation Fee Program and NPSafe Overview.
- ◆ Sharon Brussell coordinated the spring and fall SEUG group interpretive training sessions; all of the Arches interpretive staff presented one or more sessions for this training. Brussell and Murray Shoemaker attended an 8-hour Fire Refresher.
- ◆ Murray taught an Interp Module 101 course for the two SEUG Interpretive Training sessions.
- ◆ Alicia continued to function as a SEUG Equal Opportunity Counselor and handled one case for IMR.
- ◆ Sharon attended an Advanced CISM Training at GLCA (16-hours) and provided CISM services to several parks, including Rocky Mountain during the search for and after the death of a seasonal ranger. She also rendered CISM services to Grand County EMS personnel.
- ◆ A SEUG-sponsored Geology Interpretive Workshop held June 13-14 was attended by Lee and Murray.
- ◆ Murray also attended 24 hours of rock rescue training and 36 hours of EMT refresher training.
- ◆ Murray also attended the TelNet Performance Management (video).
- ◆ Alicia attended TelNet and DOI University trainings: Interview Skills for Supervisors (2 hours) and Performance Management System (1 hour). In addition, she attended 32 hours of Advanced EEO training for the SEUG.

Visitor Center

The Arches Visitor Center continued to be a busy place all year, in spite of the temporary nature of the facility and limited parking. The move into the new facility in August provided a good “test run” for busy times; two employees are needed at the desk most of the time now. Through the year, 407,296 visitors entered the two buildings, received information on the park and surrounding area including alternative camping locations, enjoyed an attractive and educational sales and exhibit area, watched a 16-minute orientation program, filed lost and found reports, received Fiery Furnace and backcountry permits, reported vehicle problems from keys locked inside to mechanical problems, reported lost and/or injured hikers and received emergency messages. Staff managed the busy part of the season in temporary facilities, moving into the new building on August 10, 2005.

Fiery Furnace

Fees continued to be collected from March through October for the popular Fiery Furnace Walk, under the Fee Demonstration Project guidelines. For this ranger-led three-hour long tour of a trailless area, adult tickets cost \$8; children and seniors, \$4; children six years of age and under were free. Visitors entering the area without a ranger were issued a permit and charged \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and seniors. Tours continued to fill daily, from mid-March through October, with generally positive reaction to the fee. In addition to 12,164 people on 517 regularly scheduled tours, and 1695 people on 84 special FF tours, a total of 6,583 people procured permits during the year. A total of \$103,788 was collected for tours and permits. Two GS-5 term Park Guides and two GS-4 part-time seasonal Visitor Use Assistants were hired with these funds to administer the collection of fees and provide interpretive services.

Interpretive Programs

In addition to Fiery Furnace walks, other interpretive programs presented in 2005 included:

- 235 evening programs for 723 visitors;
- 382 guided walks with 4,186 visitors; and
- 6665 visitors contacted on roving interpretation.

The new Discovery film, “Secrets of Red Rock” featuring both Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, premiered in the new visitor center. An accurate method of counting viewers has not been determined, but at present, we are estimating that 30% of the people entering the visitor center view the film.

“Porch talks” were not offered in 2005, due to the lack of space at the temporary visitor center and not being ready at the new building in September. These will begin again in 2006.

The eight-minute orientation video continued to air locally on a closed-circuit system to twelve major hotels in Moab, reaching over 500,000 visitors with park specific information; funding was not provided through CNHA aid this season, but Mr. Jim Mattingly continued to run the program.

Planning

The entire Interpretation division staff continued to work diligently on the new visitor center exhibits throughout the year. Southern Customs Exhibits, Inc. of Anniston, AL fabricated most of the exhibits; subcontractors include Somerset Group, also of Alabama, for the interactive and audiovisual work; Matthew Gray Palmer of Washington for the wildlife bronze sculptures in the visitor center plaza; and Chase Studios, who prepared the relief map, plant and animal models. Diane Allen and Murray Shoemaker traveled to Alabama to inspect exhibits at SCE and to work with Somerset on the geology animation program, respectively. Installation began in July, when three semi-truckloads of exhibit material arrived at the park. Over a three-week period, six employees from Southern Customs Exhibits unloaded and installed *faux* fins along with all other exhibits and the interactive computer programs. Matthew Gray Palmer oversaw the installation of the sculptures. Joyce Morris, COTR and Cynthia Coffett from Harpers Ferry Center, provided oversight. Neal Herbert took documentary photographs. The visitor “unofficially” opened on August 10th. Since that time, staff has continued to monitor the interactive programs and the theater program and equipment, trouble-shooting, consulting with SCE and HFC, and continues to work on getting everything running. SCE will return in late winter or early spring of 2006 to complete installation of the plaza Trip Planning interactive and trouble-shoot various other problems.

Allen also participated in planning for the Alternative Transportation Plan and the visitor center building.

GPRA Surveys

The interpretive staff distributed 400 visitor surveys as part of the GPRA process in April, at various locations throughout the park. Results of the 30% response rate showed that 95% of our visitors were satisfied with the park’s services, facilities and recreational opportunities, same as the previous year. In response to the significance question, there was a 75% response rate; of this, 94% of visitors understood and appreciated the significance. Assistance from park employees was rated at 98% satisfaction (up from 93% in 2004), visitor center at 53% for the temporary facility (down from 91% in 2004), ranger programs at 93% (up from 91% in 2004), park map the same at 97%, and opportunities to learn about nature, history or culture up from 85% to 90%. The survey in 2005 was conducted in April, the same month as in 1999-2004.

Partnerships

Arches NP maintains 6 community partnerships through agreements in place via the NPS Southeast Utah Group: Canyonlands Natural History Association; Medical Advisory Services; Natural Resource Projects – Utah State University Conservation Corps; Natural Resource Projects - State of Utah Forestry, Fire & Lands; Natural Resource Projects - Four Corners School; Law Enforcement – Bureau of Land Management. Arches NP specific agreements: Law Enforcement Dispatch - Grand County, Utah; Interagency Agreement - Northern Colorado Plateau Network Inventory & Monitoring Program.

Cooperating Association Activities

Chief of Interpretation Diane Allen continued in her role as the Canyonlands Natural History Association (CNHA) liaison for the NPS. In this capacity, she attended Board meetings, as well as committee meetings for Publications and Finance, and prepared the annual aid request package.

CNHA continued to be successful, with revenue for calendar year 2005 at over \$2.1 million for the entire association; in spite of more than half the year in the temporary visitor center, Arches still accounted for 46% of CNHA's total sales. A number of new titles and products, as well as improved sales area management, contributed to this success. Popular new sales items included several types of hats, Tom Till prints, collector's stamps, and a Delicate Arch holographic/acrylic keychain, which was given away at the visitor center opening ceremony and sold thereafter.

Aid returned to Arches National Park specifically totaled over \$38,900, for free publications, SCA volunteers and resource management assistance. In addition, \$17,500 was granted to the Southeast Utah Group interpretive efforts and \$7400 to SEUG Resource Management activities, some of which benefited Arches. Additional assistance was provided in the form of staff in the visitor center, who also assisted visitors with trip planning and general orientation. In the new visitor center, the sales area is physically separated from the information desk, so while CNHA staff will no doubt continue to answer visitors' questions about the park, our functions will be less seamless than in the past.

Activities/Community Relations

Superintendent Laura Joss represents the park at meetings of the Moab Chamber of Commerce, Grand County Council, Grand County Trail Mix group (also attended by Chief Ranger Glenn Sherrill), Grand County/Moab Area Economic Development Committee, Grand County Emergency Response Team, Canyon Country Partners, Utah Outdoor Recreation Task Force and the Moab Rotary Club, serving as the club's Secretary.

Resource Management and Visitor Protection Ranger Karen McKinlay-Jones participated in the local area Extreme Safety program. The ranger staff all work very closely with Grand County Search and Rescue and participated in a number of SARs outside the park.

Staff from all divisions participated in an annual cleanup of Highway 191 adjacent to the park boundary.

APPENDIX - STAFFING

Administration

Superintendent	Laura Joss	Permanent fulltime
Administrative Technician	Eve Stocks	Permanent fulltime
Program Support Assistant	Ann Corson	Permanent part-time

Maintenance, Facility Management and Development

Facility Manager	Shawn Bryant	PFT
Facility Manager (Acting)	Tome Johnson	PFT
Facility Manager (Acting)	John Lewis	PFT
Facility Manager (Acting)	Eric McDougald	Career Seasonal
Maintenance Mech. Leader	Tome Johnson	PFT
Plumbing Worker	Jay Kratz	Career Seasonal
Plumbing Worker	Darrell Dalton	Career Seasonal
Maintenance Worker	Mark Johnson	Career Seasonal
Maintenance Worker	Mark Mattivi	Career Seasonal
Maintenance Worker Leader	Steve Paduganan	Seasonal
Maintenance Worker (Trails)	4 Positions	Seasonal
Labor (Trails)	2 Positions	Seasonal

Facility Manager Shawn Bryant departed in March 2005 for a new position at Jewel Cave National Monument. During the lapse of this position, three individuals acted for 3-4 months each as Facility Manager: Tome Johnson, John S. Lewis and Eric McDougall.

Resource and Visitor Protection

Chief Park Ranger	Glenn Sherrill	PFT
Park Ranger	Gary N. Salamacha	PFT
Park Ranger	Karen McKinlay-Jones	PFT
Park Ranger	Jason Ramsdell	PFT
Park Ranger	Jacob Tung	Seasonal

The Chief Ranger position was vacant throughout 2005 and rangers McKinlay-Jones, Salamacha and Ramsdell all rotated through as Acting Chief Ranger.

Fee Collection

Supervisory VUA	Natalie Hettman	PFT
Lead Visitor Use Assistant	Lynda Moore	PFT
Visitor Use Assistant	Lee Kaiser	PFT
Visitor Use Assistant	Janet Wiinamaki	Career Seasonal(STF)
Visitor Use Assistant	Leo Dutilly, Jr	Career Seasonal(STF)
Visitor Use Assistant	Nancy Suokko	Career Seasonal(STF)
Visitor Use Assistant	Sue Moore	FT. Seasonal
Visitor Use Assistant	Tisha Ward	PT. Seasonal
Visitor Use Assistant	Caryl Say	PT. Seasonal

Interpretation and Education

Chief of Interpretation	Diane Allen	PFT
Park Ranger	Murray Shoemaker	PFT
Park Ranger	Lee Ferguson	PFT
Park Ranger	Clay Parcels	Career Seasonal (STF)
Park Guide	Alicia Lafever	PFT

Admin. Assistant	Sharon Brussell	PFT
Park Guide	Robert Wallace	Career Seasonal (STF-term)
Park Guide	Steve Budelier	Career Seasonal (STF-term)
Visitor Use Assistant	Judy Martinez-Ross	Seasonal Part-time
Visitor Use Assistant	Dorothy Harding	Seasonal Part-time

One of the Visitor Use Assistant positions was held by three different people: Ben Garthwait returned from previous years but resigned in April to take a position with USFS as a firefighter; he was replaced by Jerry Hansen who resigned for medical reasons after less than four pay periods; and Dorothy Harding, who completed the season.